Remarks/Arguments:

This is a reply to the final office action of April 10, 2008, and accompanies a request for continued examination.

Claim 37 is supported by the original specification, pages 3 and 4. The matting compound is described at page 3 to page 5, first paragraph. The further components of the ink jet printing ink composition are described at page 4, third paragraph.

The feature that the matting compound has a higher boiling point than the fast drying solvent, and that the binder is insoluble in the matting compound, is disclosed at page 4, first paragraph.

The amount of binder to be used is disclosed at page 5, third paragraph. The amount of matting compound to be used is disclosed at page 4, first paragraph, the amount of solvent to be used is disclosed at page 5, first paragraph, and the amount of marking compound to be used is disclosed at page 5, bottom.

Claim 38 is supported at page 5, third paragraph.

Claim 39 is supported at page 3, bottom.

Claim 40 is supported at page 4, bottom.

Claim 41 is supported at page 5, top.

Claim 42 is supported at page 5, middle.

Finally, claim 43 is supported at page 7, top.

The ink composition according to claim 37 is a very specific ink jet printing ink composition which is not disclosed in US 2005/0119368 (Hall-Goulle). Claim 37 is alone novel for the reason that Hall-Goulle does not disclose an ink composition having the components of claim 37 in such specific amounts.

With respect, we do not agree with the examiner that the composition of Hall-Goulle would comprise a matting agent in accordance with the present invention. Halle-Goulle is related to specific ink compositions which contain lanthanide complexes as colorants. The ink carrier is only mentioned in passing in section [0041]. It is immediately apparent from that section that the ink carrier is nothing specific: Any suitable ink carrier known in the art of printing compositions could be used according to that section. In the following section, a very conventional ink composition is described which comprises a binder and a solvent component as a carrier. The solvent component can be, for example, a ketone, or an alcohol such as glycerol. In other words, Hall-Goulle describes glycerol as a solvent component, not as a matting compound. There is, for example, no disclosure at all in Hall-Goulle that a combination of, e.g., a ketone and glycerol should be used. What is more important is the fact that the binder component used by Hall-Goulle should be soluble in the ink carrier (see section [0049]). In other words, the glycerol is used by Hall-Gaulle exactly in the way as described, i.e. as a solvent. This has nothing to do with the matting agent of the present invention.

A solvent component which actually functions as a solvent, as is the case in Hall-Goulle, cannot provide the desired matting effect of the present invention: a solvent dissolves the binder and has no influence on the gloss of the composition. On the other hand, the matting compound of the present invention is chosen such that the binder component is insoluble in said matting compound. After printing, the fast-drying solvent evaporates, but not the matting compound. As a consequence, the binder precipitates and forms a non-perfect film which is matt in appearance (see page

4, end of first para. It is understood that such an effect cannot occur if the matting agent would function as a solvent.

Therefore, the present invention only works with a specific combination of a binder component and a matting agent: the matting agent has to be selected such that it is not evaporated at the temperature where the fast-drying solvent evaporates. Furthermore, the matting agent must be selected such that it does not dissolve the binder component. Only if these two prerequisites are satisfied, is the concept of the invention fulfilled.

It is respectfully submitted that nothing like that is disclosed in Hall-Goulle. To the contrary, as shown above, in the ink compositions of Hall-Goulle the glycerol acts as a solvent which dissolves the binder component. In other words, Hall- Goulle uses different binders, i.e. binders which are dissolved in glycerol. Under these circumstances, the matting effect of the present invention can never occur in Hall- Goulle.

Applicant therefore submits that the claims now presented are novel over Hall-Goulle.

It is also clear that the claimed invention is not rendered obvious by Hall-Goulle. Hall-Goulle is related to different ink compositions which do not exhibit the matting effect of the present invention. Moreover, there is no teaching at all in Hall-Goulle that such a matting effect could be obtained by using a binder which is insoluble in a matting agent, i.e. by using the combination of claim 37. The skilled person would not receive any reasonable expectation of success from Hall-Goulle to use the combination of claim 37. Moreover, the problem of gloss is not mentioned at all in Hall-Goulle. There is nothing in Hall-Goulle which would have led the skilled man to the present invention.

In consequence, the rejections in the last office action of the dependent claims are moot. As we explained in earlier responses, the other references cited by the examiner

against certain dependent claims are not relevant to the present invention. For example, Hall-Goule does not even comprise a binder component. The same applies for Siddiqui. Those earlier arguments were found persuasive by the examiner, who subsequentyly cited Hall-Goulle.

We believe the claims now at issue are patentable over the prior art of record, and that this application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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